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**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers**

**FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
Communications Section
Bureau of Health Care Eligibility
Division of Health Care Financing**

BHCE/BWP OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 04-45 Updated Table

DATE: 08/27/2004

FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	WtW	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/>	★		

PRIORITY: MEDIUM

SUBJECT: 2005 Food Stamp Program Mass Change

CROSS REFERENCE: Food Stamp Handbook, Appendix 18 and 16.08.00

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2004

PURPOSE

This memo announces the Food Stamp (FS) cost of living adjustments (COLA) and the new utility standard amounts for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) adjusts the gross and net income limits, the allotment tables, standard deduction amounts, and the excess shelter expense deduction for the Food Stamp Program. The utility standard amounts are also adjusted based on average utility costs statewide.

POLICY**FS COLA FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2005**

Reference table changes have been made in CARES, so that ongoing cases will use the new amounts effective October 1, 2004. The mass change will occur on September 4, 2004. The FS mass change will select all FS cases and process eligibility for October using the new reference table changes and standards. Eligibility determinations for FS for October 2004 and later will use the new amounts. These amounts are found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. They will be added to the FS Handbook in the next release.

Following are changes effective October 1, 2004:

Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$388.

Income Limit & Allotment Changes

AG Size	200% FPL <u>Gross Income Limit</u>	165% FPL <u>Gross Income Limit</u>	130% FPL <u>Gross Income Limit</u>	100% FPL <u>Net Income Limit</u>	Maximum Allotment
1	\$ 1552	\$ 1281	\$ 1009	\$ 776	\$ 149
2	\$ 2082	\$ 1718	\$ 1354	\$ 1041	\$ 274
3	\$ 2612	\$ 2155	\$ 1698	\$ 1306	\$ 393
4	\$ 3142	\$ 2592	\$ 2043	\$ 1571	\$ 499
5	\$ 3672	\$ 3030	\$ 2387	\$ 1836	\$ 592
6	\$ 4202	\$ 3467	\$ 2732	\$ 2101	\$ 711
7	\$ 4732	\$ 3904	\$ 3076	\$ 2366	\$ 786
8	\$ 5262	\$ 4341	\$ 3421	\$ 2631	\$ 898
9	\$ 5792	\$ 4779	\$ 3766	\$ 2896	\$1010
10	\$ 6322	\$ 5217	\$ 4111	\$ 3161	\$1122
11	\$ 6852	\$ 5655	\$ 4456	\$ 3426	\$1234
12	\$ 7382	\$ 6093	\$ 4801	\$ 3691	\$1346

(AG = Assistance Group, FPL = Federal Poverty Level)

NOTE ➤ Notices of decision that impact reduced change reporting requirements will also be adjusted to reflect the new 130% FPL income reporting limits.

Standard Deduction

The Standard Deduction increase is based on the Assistance Group size.

AG Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-4	\$134
5	\$153
6 or more	\$175

The following deductions will not change:

- Maximum monthly Dependent Care - \$200 or \$175 depending on the age of the child.
- Medical Expenses – Monthly expenses over \$35 for elderly or disabled individuals only.

New Standard Utility Allowances

Standard	Allowance	Definition
HSUA	\$238	Heating
LUA	\$135	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$67	Non-heat electric
FUA	\$25	Cooking fuel used for other than heating, gas, LP, etc.
WUA	\$22	Water, well installation and maintenance, sewer, septic tank installation and maintenance, and/or wastewater treatment
PUA	\$24	Telephone
TUA	\$15	Garbage and trash pick up

PROCEDURE

Any cases that are run for FS eligibility after September 4, 2004 will have the new SUA policy applied effective October 1, 2004.

OTHER PROGRAMS

There is no change in the shelter and utility budgeting for MA. Actual shelter and utility costs still need to be obtained from the customer and entered into CARES to assure the correct MA eligibility and post eligibility determinations. See the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook for specific policy.

CONTACTS

BHCE CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

★Program Categories – FS – Food Stamps, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WtW – Welfare to Work, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.